IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of   )

Jacob McGuire   )   Group Art Unit: 2152

Application No.: 09/843,766   )   Examiner: DOHM CHANKONG

Filed: April 30, 2001   )   Confirmation No.: 9191

For: TEMPLATE-BASED SYSTEM FOR   )
       AUTOMATED DEPLOYMENT AND   )
       MANAGEMENT OF NETWORK   )
       DEVICES   )
)

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated August 23, 2004, Applicant respectfully

requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the claims.

Claims 1, 3-6, 8 and 10-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102, on the

grounds that they were considered to be anticipated by the Belknap et al patent

(U.S. 6,516,356). The other pending claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103, as

being obvious in view of the Belknap patent, considered in combination with Official

Notice or the McNeely patent publication. It is respectfully submitted that the

Belknap patent neither anticipates, not otherwise suggests, the claimed subject

matter.

The claimed invention is generally directed to the deployment and

management of network devices, such as switches, routers, firewalls, load

balancers, and the like. The claims are particularly directed to the manner in which a

plurality of such devices are appropriately configured, where each device requires

unique input data. For example, when configuring a plurality of firewalls, the

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